

JOURNAL

Of the Senate of the State of Florida, at the First Session of the Fifteenth Legislature, begun and held at the Capitol, in the City of Tallahassee, in the State of Florida, on Monday, the eighth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, being the time fixed for the meeting of the Legislature by the Constitution of the State of Florida, framed by a Convention of the People, begun and held in the city of Tallahassee by authority of the sixth of Congress known as the Reconstruction Acts, on the twentieth day of January, and concluded on the twenty-fifth day of February, both in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, and ratified by the people at large at an election held by virtue of the Reconstruction Acts aforesaid, on the fourth, fifth, and sixth days of May, in the year aforesaid, as is announced in General Orders No. 85, Headquarters Third Military District, (Department of Georgia, Florida, and Alabama,) Atlanta, Ga., June 2d, 1868.

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of the State, the Senate was called to order at 10 o'clock, M., June 8, 1868, by J. L. Crawford of the Seventh District.

On motion of W. J. Purman, Third District, Horatio Jenkins, Thirteenth District, was elected temporary President.

Upon taking his seat the President called upon the Rev. Robert Meacham, member for the Ninth District, to offer prayer.

After the prayer, on motion A. A. Knight, Fourteenth District, William Lee Apthorp of Tampa was elected temporary Secretary.

The roll was then called, and the following Senators answered to their names:

First District—G. J. Alden.

Third District—W. J. Purman.

Sixth District—J. E. A. Davidson.

Seventh District—J. L. Crawford.

Ninth District—Robert Meacham.

Twelfth District—J. M. Krimminger.

Thirteenth District—Horatio Jenkins.

Fourteenth District—A. A. Knight.

Fifteenth District—W. T. Weeks.

Seventeenth District—N. A. Moragne.

Twenty-First District—W. H. Hunt.

Twenty-Second District—C. R. Mobley.

On motion of Mr. Mobley, General Orders No. 85, Headquar-

ters Third Military District, announcing the ratification of the Constitution, was read by the Secretary:

HEADQUARTERS THIRD MILITARY DISTRICT,
Department of Georgia, Florida, and Alabama,
ATLANTA, GA., June 2d, 1868. }

GENERAL ORDERS No. 85.

Official returns of the recent election having been received from all the counties in the State of Florida (except one, Brevard) in which the election on the ratification of the Constitution was held, and it appearing from said returns that a majority of five thousand and fifty (5050) votes has been cast "For the Constitution," the same is hereby declared ratified in accordance with the provisions of the Act of Congress which became a law March 12th, 1868.

By order of Major General Meade:

(Signed)

R. C. DRUM,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Mr. Mobley moved that a set of rules be adopted for the government of the Senate during its temporary organization;

Which was agreed to.

Mr. Purman moved that the rules of the former Senate of Florida be adopted during the temporary organization of the Senate;

Which was agreed to.

Mr. Mobley moved that the Oath of Office be now taken by the Senators present;

Which was agreed to.

Mr. Purman moved that the Chair appoint a committee of three to wait upon Judge Boynton, of the United States District Court, and invite him to administer the Oath of Office;

Which was agreed to.

The Chair appointed Messrs. Purman, Davidson, and Meacham as such committee.

The committee withdrew a few moments, and returning with the Judge, reported him present.

The oath of office prescribed by the Constitution was then administered by Judge Boynton to the Senators.

The Chair announced that there was not a quorum present.

Mr. Purman moved that Mr. J. L. Husband be appointed temporary Sergeant-at-Arms;

Which was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Mobley, the Senate adjourned to 12 o'clock, M., to-morrow, and proceeded to the Supreme Court room to witness the inauguration of the Governor elect.

At 3 P. M., Harrison Reed, the Governor elect, appeared in the Supreme Court room and took the oath of office adminis-

tered by Judge Boynton of the United States District Court, and delivered the following

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Fellow Citizens of Florida: In entering upon the high trust which your partiality has conferred, in deference to time honored custom it becomes my duty to briefly indicate the policy of my administration as Chief Magistrate of the State.

In November, 1860, the constitutional rights of the people of Florida were subverted and its civil government was overthrown. Since then the State has been without a constitutional government and subject to military law.

In March, 1867, the Congress of the United States, in obedience to its obligation to "guarantee to every State a Republican form of government," prepared a plan by which the State could regain its forfeited rights and its people be restored to the benefits of constitutional government.

Under this plan, you have framed a government which we are here to-day to inaugurate and prepare to make effective. You have formed and adopted a Constitution based upon the great theory of American government, that *all men are by nature free and endowed with equal rights*. You have laid deep and broad the foundations of the State upon the principle of universal freedom.

Bred to freedom and under Republican institutions; believing slavery an unmitigated curse, as well as a violation of human rights—a moral, political, and physical evil, wherever tolerated, I most cordially congratulate you that it no longer exists to blight the fair heritage which God has given us here, and that the Constitution which you have adopted contains no germ of despotism to generate future discord.

I congratulate you also that no spirit of malevolence or bitterness, growing out of the wrongs and conflicts of the past, has been suffered to mar your organic law, but that in a spirit of magnanimity and forbearance worthy of the highest commendation, those who have forfeited their citizenship are welcomed back to the benefits and privileges of the government upon the sole condition of fealty and adherence to the Constitution and laws.

Amid the ruins of a government embodying antagonistic principles, you have laid the foundations of a government insuring harmony, stability, security, and peace. The conflicting elements and interests of the past may now all unite in a homogeneous system, all yielding obedience to a common law, which respects alike the interests of all. Time alone can heal the social disorders and dissensions created by the disruption of society and the radical change in the system of government conse-

quent upon the war. We will patiently await its mollifying influences, interposing no obstacles to a speedy restoration.

All classes of society and all the interests of the State demand peace and good government, and if the spirit of our Constitution is appreciated and reciprocated, every citizen may realize these advantages, and the State may arise from its prostrate condition to a measure of prosperity unknown in the past, and become one of the brightest luminaries in the galaxy of our glorious Union.

Fellow Citizens! I accept the high responsibility of the Chief Magistracy under your new Constitution, believing firmly in its principles, and unqualifiedly endorsing its policy and that of the Congress under whose clemency we are permitted to inaugurate anew a civil government for the State. I enter upon this high trust with the firm purpose of executing the laws in the spirit of liberality in which they are conceived, and in view of the highest interests of the State and the people. Relying upon your loyalty and patriotism, and the favor and guidance of that Divine Power which sways the destinies of all, I shall do what within me lies to render effective the Government, and to command for it the respect and obedience of all classes of our citizens.

TUESDAY, June 9th, 1868.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order at 12 M., by the President *pro tem*.

The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Mr. Knight moved that permanent officers be elected, as follows:

For President—Horatio Jenkins, Jr., of the Thirteenth District, under section 19, Miscellaneous Article of the Constitution.

For Secretary—William L. Apthorp.

For First Assistant Secretary—W. U. Saunders.

For Sergeant-at-Arms—James Stephenson.

For Door-keeper—Joseph E. Oates.

For Page—Major DeCoursey;

Which was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Crawford, W. J. Thomas, of Wakulla, was elected Messenger.

A committee from the House announced that that body was organized and ready for business.

Mr. Knight moved that a committee of three be appointed to wait upon his Excellency the Governor, in concurrence with a committee from the Assembly, and inform him that the Legislature is organized and ready to receive any communication he may desire to make;

Which was agreed to.

The President appointed Messrs. Mobley, Knight, and Weeks as said committee.

The committee withdrew, and returned, reporting that his Excellency would send in a message without delay.

The following message was received and ordered to be spread upon the Journal:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
TALLAHASSEE, Florida, June 9th, 1868.

Gentlemen of the Senate and the Assembly:

You are assembled under the provisions and in obedience to the requisitions of the Constitution of the State, adopted in accordance with the acts of Congress.

Until admitted to representation upon the floor of Congress, your acts will be merely provisional.

I therefore recommend that no action be taken save that dictated by the acts of Congress as conditions precedent to admission, to wit: The passage of the proposed amendment to the Constitution, known as the Fourteenth Article, and the election of United States Senators—unless it be to ratify the Thirteenth Article, already adopted, your immediate assent to which I advise.

After we shall have been recognized by Congress in the admission of our Representatives and Senators, I shall communicate more at length upon the general interests of the State.

HARRISON REED.

Mr. Alden offered the following:

The People of the State of Florida represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact, That the following proposed amendments to the Constitution of the United States, known as Article XIII. and XIV., respectively, be and the same are hereby adopted:

ARTICLE XIII.

SEC. 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

SEC. 2. And Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

ARTICLE XIV.

SEC. 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States, and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of its laws.